

The immense levies made in France, one after the other, had converted the conscription into a sort of press-gang. Men employed in agriculture and manufactures were dragged from their labors ; and the people began to express their dissatisfaction at the measures of Government more loudly than they had hitherto ventured to do; yet all were willing to make another effort, if they could have persuaded themselves that the Emperor would henceforth confine his thoughts to France alone. Napoleon sent Caulaincourt to the headquarters of the Allies, but that was only for the sake of gaining time, and inducing a belief that he was favorably disposed to peace.

The Allies having learned the immense levies of troops which Napoleon was making, and being well acquainted with the state of feeling in France, published the famous manifesto/ addressed to the French people, which was profusely circulated, and may be referred to as a warning to subjects who trust to the promises of Governments.

The good faith with which the promises in the manifesto were kept may be judged of from the Treaty of Paris. In the mean time the manifesto did not a little contribute to alienate from Napoleon those who were yet faithful to his cause : for, by believing in the declarations of the Allies, they saw in him the sole obstacle to that peace which France so ardently desired. On this point, too, the Allies were not wrong, and I confess that I did not see without great surprise that the Due de Rovigo, in that part of his Memoirs where he mentions this manifesto, reproaches those who framed it for represent-

¹ This proclamation said that the Allied sovereigns wished France to be great, strong, and happy, and that they confirmed to the French Empire an extent of territory which France had never possessed under her Kings. It is often the custom to deride the French claims made by either of the Napoleons or by the Republic of 1870, that France had been relatively weakened by the increases of territory gained by all the other powers of Europe by the partition of Poland, the resettlement of Germany, the increase of the English colonial dominions, etc. A glance at any ordinary historical atlas, or the remembrance of the ease with which France was overthrown in 1870, would prove how true the statement was. As for the belief that if France could only be finally and permanently weakened a reign of peace would at last descend on Europe, it must be allowed that in the worst days under Napoleon Europe was not the vast camp of armed nations counting each other's strength, and ready for war in a week, which she has been under the German Continental supremacy.